

## Cooperating Agency Agreements

**ITEM B-1**            To:    Cooperating Agencies  
                         From: IDOT, District 6  
                         Date: May 21, 1997

**ITEM B-2**            To:    IDOT District 6  
                         From: John G. Betker, USACOE  
                         Date: May 27, 1997

**ITEM B-3**            To:    James L. Easterly, IDOT District 6  
                         From: James R. Hartwig, IDOA  
                         Date: May 30, 1997

**ITEM B-4**            To:    James L. Easterly, IDOT District 6  
                         From: Steve Hamer, IDNR  
                         Date: May 30, 1997

**ITEM B-5**            To:    James L. Easterly, IDOT District 6  
                         From: Bruce L. McLaren, US Coast Guard  
                         Date: June 3, 1997

**ITEM B-6**            To:    James. L. Easterly, IDOT District 6  
                         From: Mary A. Gade, IEPA  
                         Date: July 29, 1997



# Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 6  
126 East Ash Street / Springfield, Illinois 62704-4792

May 21, 1997

~~Mr. Keith McMullen  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Louis District  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2933~~

Re: FAP 310 (U.S. 67)  
Section (69,9,85,55)  
Morgan, Cass, Schuyler & McDonough Counties  
Phase I Expressway Study  
Jacksonville to Macomb  
Job No. P96-006-93

Dear Mr. McMullen:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposed improvement of U.S. 67 from Jacksonville to Macomb, Illinois. The project traverses four counties: Morgan, Cass, Schuyler, and McDonough. Since the project will require a 404 permit for waters of the United States, which are under the jurisdiction of your agency, we are inviting you to be a cooperating agency in the development of this project. Additionally, the U.S. ACOE has been participating in the NEPA/404 Process for this project.

The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for this project appeared in the June 22, 1995 issue of the Federal Register. IDOT held a scoping meeting on June 22, 1995 in Beardstown, Illinois to discuss the key issues associated with the project. A summary of the scoping meeting is available to you on request.

The study area for the project extends from the Jacksonville Bypass on the south to U.S. 136 near Macomb on the north (see Figure 1). The length of existing U.S. 67 is approximately 90 km (55 miles) and passes through the communities of Chapin, Beardstown, Rushville, and Industry. Existing U.S. 67 is a north-south route with two travel lanes.

The proposed action is to provide an improved transportation facility within the Route 67 corridor. Alternatives being considered include the "No-Action" and several "Build" alternatives. A new bridge is being considered over the Illinois River at the location of the existing bridge.

Mr. Keith McMullen  
Page 2  
May 21, 1997

Your agency's involvement would be limited to your jurisdictional responsibility, and no direct writing or analysis will be necessary for the document's preparation. The following are activities we will take to assist interagency cooperation:

- Invite your participation in coordination meetings;
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies related to your jurisdictional responsibilities;
- Consult with you on appropriate environmental mitigation;
- Include information in the EIS that the cooperating agency needs to discharge its NEPA responsibilities, and other regulatory approvals; and
- Invite your review comments on the DEIS.

We look forward to receiving your response to this request to serve as a cooperating agency for this project. If you have any questions please contact Mike Vanderhoof, District 6 Environmental Studies Unit Chief, at 217/785-9727. You may also direct comments or questions regarding the project to the Illinois Division of the FHWA (3250 Executive Park Drive, Springfield, IL 62701).

Sincerely,

James L. Easterly, P.E.  
District Engineer

By:

  
Rodger Smith, P.E.  
Program Development Engineer

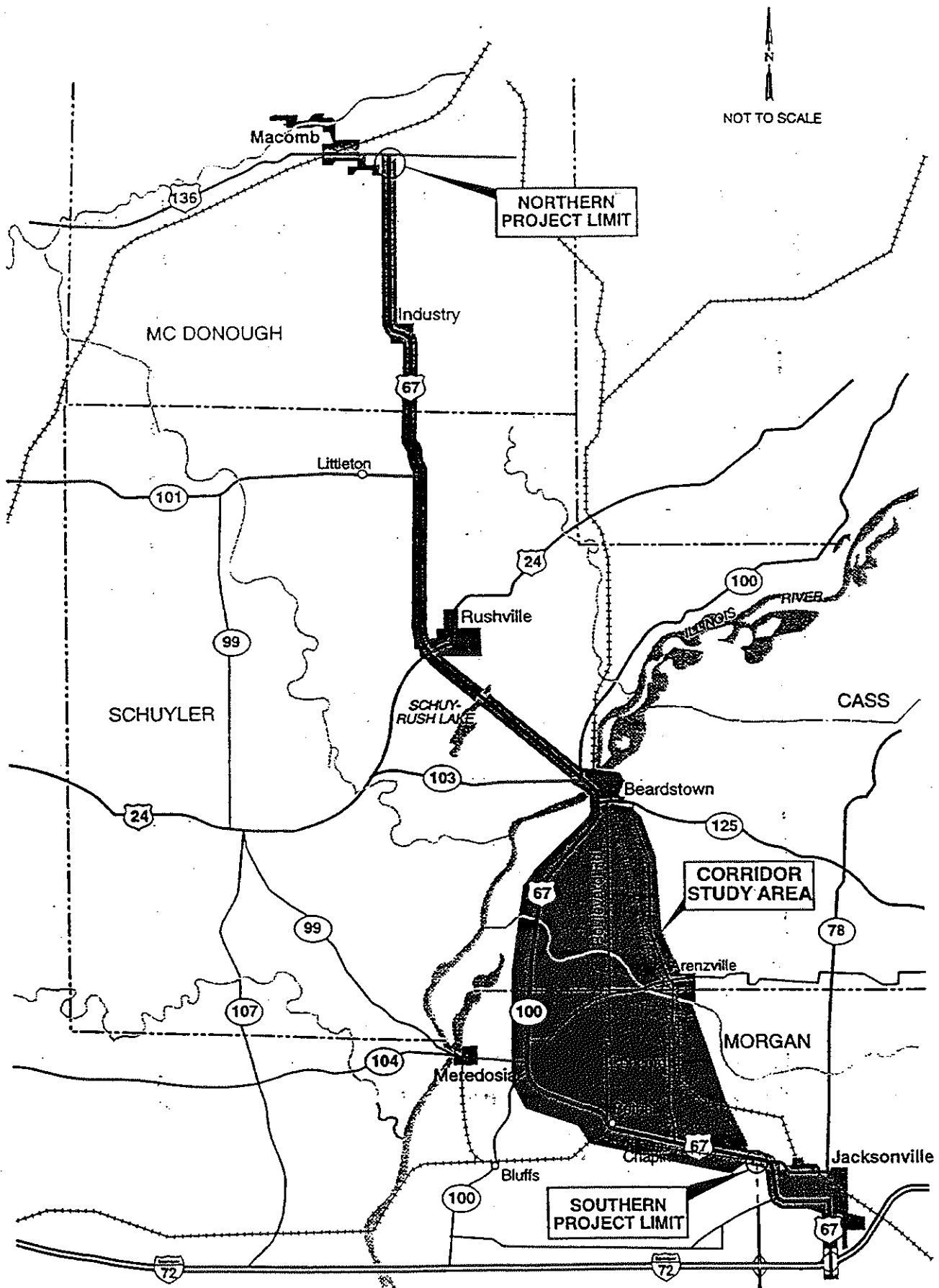


FIGURE 1  
Project Area

Mr. Keith McMullen  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Louis District  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Mr. John Betker  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Rock Island District  
Clock Tower Building  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Mr. Richard Nelson  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Rock Island Field Office  
4469 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Court  
Rock Island, IL 61201

Mr. Steve Hamer  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Lincoln Tower Plaza, Room 310  
524 South Second  
Springfield, IL 62701

Mr. Steve Chard  
Illinois Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Farmland Protection  
P.O. Box 19281  
Illinois State Fairgrounds  
Springfield, IL 62794

Ms. Mary Gade  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
2200 Churchill Road  
Springfield, IL 62794

Mr. Roger Wiebusch  
U.S. Coast Guard  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2832

Mr. William Franz  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Planning and Assessment Branch  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

**From:** John.G.Betker@mvr02.usace.army.mil  
**To:** hubsntp.gwhub("IMCEAX400-c=US+3Ba=ATTMAIL+3Bp=GOV+...  
**Date:** 5/27/97 8:04pm  
**Subject:** Cooperating Agency Request-- U. S.-67 (from Jacksonville to Macomb)

The Corps will participate as a cooperating agency for your stated project in the capacity of reviewing your environmental documentation for compliance with our Regulatory requirements. We may also provide comments from other elements within the Corps regarding their areas of expertise. However, we do not wish to be a cooperating signatory agency in your documents.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thanks

	Joh
n G. Betker	Pro
ject Manager	Reg
ulatory Division	(30
9)794-5380	

**CC:** hubsntp.gwhub("Steven.J.Vanderhorn@mvr02.usace.arm...



**Illinois**  
Department of  
**Agriculture**

Bureau of Land and Water Resources • State Fairgrounds • P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281  
217/782-6297 • TDD 217/524-6858 • Fax 217/524-4882

May 30, 1997

Mr. James L. Easterly, District Engineer  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Division of Highways/District 6  
126 East Ash Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704-4792

Re: US 67 Expressway Design Study  
Jacksonville to Macomb

Attn: Rodger A. Smith

Dear Mr. Easterly:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) received your letter dated May 21, 1997 inviting the IDOA to become a cooperating agency in the development of this project. The IDOA accepts the invitation and welcomes the opportunity to participate in the project as outlined in your letter.

Enclosed are two letters the IDOA previously sent to you regarding the project. The concerns expressed in both letters regarding the proper assessment and minimization of the project's agricultural impacts are still of great interest to the IDOA. Since farmland conversion will likely represent the project's most significant environmental impact, the IDOA is interested in coordinating with the District to make certain the farmland conversion and other agricultural impacts are identified and minimized where possible.

Please keep us informed as to how we may assist the District in addressing these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James R. Hartwig".

James R. Hartwig, Supervisor  
Office of Farmland Protection and Mined Land Reclamation

SDC:JRH:drs

Enclosures

cc: John Rowley, IDOT  
Patrick Giordano, IDOA

nrk



State of Illinois

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

State Fairgrounds / P.O. Box 19281 / Springfield 62794-9281 TDD: 217/524-6858

Bureau of Environmental Programs  
217/ 785-2427

Bureau of Farmland Protection  
217/ 782-6297

Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation  
217/ 782-6297

June 2, 1995

Mr. James L. Easterly, District Engineer  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Division of Highways/District 6  
126 East Ash Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704-4792

Re: U.S. 67 Expressway Design Study  
Jacksonville to Macomb  
Scoping Meeting

Attn: Rodger A. Smith

Dear Mr. Easterly:

Thank you for the invitation to attend the June 22, 1995 scoping meeting on the U.S. 67 project from Jacksonville to Macomb. The IDOA is very interested in the project, as it will result in extensive agricultural impacts. Consequently, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) desires to be a party to the scoping process that will be carried out on this project. I will be attending the meeting as the IDOA's representative.

Enclosed is a listing of the agricultural concerns which should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be prepared on the project. By addressing these concerns, we feel that the EIS will reflect an accurate assessment of the project's agricultural impacts and the measures to mitigate those impacts. The IDOA will also need the same information in order to properly assess the project's agricultural impacts and determine its compliance with IDOT's Agricultural Land Preservation Policy and with the state's Farmland Preservation Act.

As the EIS is prepared, the IDOA would ask that Prime and Important farmland be considered a natural resource and not just a land use as is commonly done in many environmental documents. In enacting the federal Farmland Protection Policy Act and the state's Farmland Preservation Act, both Congress and the Illinois General Assembly named farmland as a natural resource. Congress went so far as to call it a "unique" natural resource. The use of Prime and Important farmland for agricultural purposes is indeed a land use, but the land itself remains a natural resource. We ask that IDOT ensure it is regarded as such in the EIS.

In the project's scoping document which accompanied your scoping meeting notification letter, the conversion of farmland is listed under agricultural resources that will be studied. In keeping with the classification of Prime and Important farmland as a natural resource, it would seem

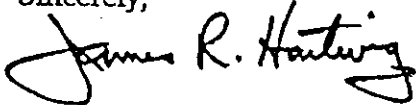


Mr. Easterly  
Page 2  
June 2, 1995

that Prime and Important farmland would more accurately be regarded as a component of the "diverse ecological landscape" and addressed as an ecological resource in the EIS. The project will incur many other agricultural impacts, some of which are listed in the scoping document, but they are not natural resource impacts and would best be addressed in a section of the EIS devoted to agricultural impacts.

Should you or your staff have questions regarding the agricultural concerns that are listed on the enclosure, our comments herein, or our review procedures, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



James R. Hartwig  
Bureau of Farmland Protection

JRH:mdg

Enclosure

cc: John Rowley, IDOT  
Kevin Rund, IFB  
Morgan County SWCD  
Cass County SWCD  
Schuyler County SWCD  
McDonough County SWCD

AGRICULTURAL IMPACT ANALYSIS  
FOR  
U.S. 67 EXPRESSWAY CORRIDOR STUDY  
JACKSONVILLE TO MACOMB

The items listed below are areas of concern which need to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is produced for the U.S. 67 Expressway from Jacksonville to Macomb. The same information needs to be provided to the Illinois Department of Agriculture for its indepth review of the agricultural impacts associated with construction of the expressway. Please provide the following information for each alternative alignment that is presented in the EIS.

1. The location of the project plotted on a county highway map, plat map, or other map of equal or better quality.
2. Acres, existing use, and location (as shown on a Soil Survey map if available) of all land to be acquired in fee for the following purposes. Please provide the preceding information separately for each of the uses listed below.
  - A. Mainline, frontage and access roads, bridges and their approaches, intersections.
  - B. Borrow materials.
  - C. Wetland mitigation.
  - D. Tree replacement.
  - E. Floodplain compensatory storage.
  - F. Any other miscellaneous fee acquisitions.
3. Length of the project.
4. Acres of each soil type proposed for fee acquisition (provide only if alternatives are proposed).
5. How much (acres and miles) of the expressway will . . .
  - A. Utilize existing right-of-way for mainline purposes?
  - B. Be parallel and adjacent to existing roadway, but will not utilize the existing right-of-way for mainline purposes?
  - C. Be constructed on entirely new alignment?

- B. Actions that will be taken to minimize or eliminate the taking of Prime farmland for the purpose of mitigating for other natural resource impacts, as a source of borrow, or for creating floodplain compensatory storage areas. For example:
1. Combining borrow areas, wetland mitigation areas, tree replacement areas, and/or floodplain compensatory storage areas.
  2. Use of uneconomical remnants and landlocked parcels as sources of borrow and for use in mitigating impacts to other natural resources and floodplains.
  3. Mitigating wetland and woodland impacts at banks that have been established for this purpose or on state or federally owned property.
  4. Avoidance of Prime farmland if off-site land must be purchased for mitigating wetland impacts, for tree replacement, or for creating floodplain compensatory storage.
  5. Use of wetland mitigation ratios that are commensurate with the quality of wetlands impacted, not to exceed a 1:1 ratio if Prime farmland is unavoidable for use in mitigating wetland impacts.
  6. Avoidance of Prime farmland for use in providing borrow materials.
- C. Actions that will be taken to minimize or eliminate:
1. Uneconomical remnants.
  2. Severed parcels.
  3. Landlocked parcels.
  4. Adverse travel.
- D. Other actions that will be taken to mitigate the project's adverse agricultural impacts.



ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

Jim Edgar, Governor ● Brent Manning, Director

May 30, 1997

Mr. James Easterly, P.E.  
Illinois Dept. Of Transportation  
Division of Highways - District 6  
126 Ash Street Illinois 62764  
Springfield, Illinois 62704-4792

RE: FAP 310 (U.S.67)  
Section (69,9,85,55)  
Job No. P96-006-93  
Phase I Expressway Study  
Jacksonville to Macomb

ATTN: Rodger Smith

Dear Mr. Easterly:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate as a cooperating agency in the NEPA process for this project. It is important that the Department of Natural Resources be involved in the Phase I Expressway Study to assure resource protection and compliance with the state Endangered Species Protection Act and the Interagency Wetlands Policy Act of 1989.

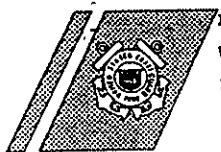
Please address all correspondence to Mr. Steve Hamer of the Office of Reality and Environmental Planning, Division of Natural Resource Review and Coordination at 524 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701.

Sincerely,

Steve Hamer  
Transportation Review Program  
Division of Natural Resource Review and Coordination

U.S. Department  
of Transportation

United States  
Coast Guard



Director  
Western River Operations  
Eighth Coast Guard District

1222 Spruce St.  
St. Louis MO 63103-2832  
Staff Symbol: (ob)  
Phone: (314) 539-3900  
Extension: 379

16591.1/87.5 ILW  
June 3, 1997

Mr. James L. Easterly, P.E.  
District Engineer  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Division of Highways/District 6  
126 East Ash Street  
Springfield, IL 62704-4792

Subj: REPLACEMENT OF BEARDSTOWN HIGHWAY BRIDGE, MILE 87.5  
ILLINOIS WATERWAY

Dear Mr. Easterly:

This is in reply to your letter of May 21, 1997, concerning the proposed replacement of the subject bridge at Beardstown, Illinois.

The General Bridge Act of 1946 requires that the location and plans for bridges over navigable waters of the United States be approved by the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, prior to commencing construction. The Illinois Waterway is considered to be a navigable waterway of the United States for bridge administration purposes at the bridge site.

Applications for bridge permits should be addressed to Director of Western River Operations, Eighth Coast Guard District, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2832, Attention: Bridge Branch. The application must be supported by sufficient information to permit a thorough assessment of the impact of the bridge and its immediate approaches on the environment. We recommend that the impacts of procedures for constructing cofferdams, sand islands, and falsework bents, etc., that will be employed to build the bridge and demolish the old bridge be discussed. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should contain also data on the number, size and types of vessels currently using the waterway. This information should be compared with past and projected future trends on the use of the waterway.

We agree to serve as a Cooperating Agency for the project from the navigational standpoint. We should be given the opportunity to review the Draft EIS (DEIS) and be consulted, if necessary,

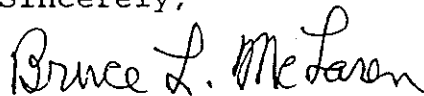
16591.1/87.5 ILW  
June 3, 1997

Subj: REPLACEMENT OF BEARDSTOWN HIGHWAY BRIDGE, MILE 87.5,  
ILLINOIS WATERWAY

before a Final EIS (FEIS) is published. Our review and recommendations on the vertical and horizontal clearance requirements for river traffic will be coordinated with your Bridge and Structure Division office.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the project in this early stage. Please contact me at the above telephone number if you have questions regarding our comments or requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce L. McLaren".

BRUCE L. MCLAREN  
Project Manager  
By direction of the District Commander



State of Illinois

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mary A. Gade, Director

217/782-3397

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, IL 62794-9276

JUL 29 1997

Mr. James L. Easterly, P.E.  
District Engineer  
Attn: Mr. Michael Vanderhoof  
Illinois Department of Transportation, District 6  
126 East Ash Street  
Springfield, IL 62794

Re: Illinois Department of Transportation, District 6  
U.S. 67 (FAP 310), Phase I Expressway Study  
Log # C-995-97

Dear Mr. Easterly:

This responds to your letter of May 21, 1997 concerning the Phase I Expressway Study for U.S. 67 (FAP 310) between Jacksonville and Macomb, and supplements our June 6, 1996 comments on the Draft EIS.

The Illinois EPA is willing to cooperate in the development and review of the technical studies on water quality related to this project. If you have any needs for data you believe we may have on water quality issues, or if you have questions on regulatory matters regarding the Illinois EPA's role in with Section 401 water quality certification, please contact Bruce Yurdin of my staff at 217/782-0610.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary A. Gade".

Mary A. Gade  
Director